

**BOROUGH OF KETTERING**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**Present:** Councillor Russell Roberts (Chair)  
Councillors Lloyd Bunday, Mark Dearing, David Howes, Ian Jelley, Mark Rowley and Lesley Thurland

**Also Present** Councillors Anne Lee and Mick Scrimshaw

**Prior to the commencement of the meeting a minute's silence was held for the victims of the fire at Grenfell Tower Block in West London**

**17.EX.01 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Ian Jelley.

**17.EX.02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**17.EX.03 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**17.EX.04 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Council's work programme published on 2<sup>nd</sup> June was noted.

**17.EX.05     MAINTAINING A DURABLE BUDGET**

A report was submitted which:-

- a) Provided Members with a reminder of the Council's medium term financial strategy and associated guiding principles;
- b) Illustrated the latest budget model, the delivery of efficiency savings for 2017/18 and the estimated level of budget savings that may be required over the next few years;
- c) Outlined an alternative strategy for New Homes Bonus income following the national changes to the scheme.
- d) Provided members with an update on the draft outturn figures for 2016/17, in relation to;
  - General Fund
  - Housing Revenue Account
  - Capital
  - Treasury Management
- e) Sought approval of the Capital Programme carry forwards from 2016/17 so these form part of the 2017/18 Capital Programme.
- f) Provided an update on Business Rates.

It was noted that details of the Business Rates Retention Scheme were still awaited. The Council had, historically, not completely relied upon New Homes Bonus receipts, but it was now important to revise the strategy in respect of New Homes Bonus and the way this was accounted for.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the following be noted:
  - (a) the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and associated guiding principles;
  - (b) the key updates made in the Budget 2017 and the continued uncertainty this brings to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy – especially in relation to potential changes to local government funding; and
  - (c) the draft out-turn position for 2016/17 for the

General Fund, Housing Revenue Account,  
Capital Programme and Treasury Management.

- (ii) the amended New Homes Bonus Strategy as detailed in Table 4 of the report be approved.
- (iii) the Capital Programme carry forwards from 2016/17 (as detailed in Appendix B to the report) be approved.

**17.EX.06      FORMER LAWRENCES SITE – DESBOROUGH (UPDATE)**

A report was submitted which updated the Executive on the progress to develop the former Lawrences factory site in Desborough and which proposed, in principle, to begin discussions with Desborough Community Development Trust (DCDT) and/or Desborough Town Council on the transfer of the factory building on a long term lease at a nominal rent.

Mr Kevin O'Brien addressed the Executive under the Council's Right to Speak policy, commenting on potential costs to Council Tax Payers in Desborough and urging the Council to consult with all residents as part of the Neighbourhood Planning process.

Mr Philip Rice also addressed the Executive as Chair of the DCDT. Mr Rice thanked officers for the continuing discussions on this matter and welcomed the good working relationship between the Trust and the Council. He urged the Council to take into consideration the site as a whole and ensure development was sympathetic to the factory building, which was considered to be a landmark in Desborough. Further funding of up to £40,000 was available if dialogue continued on establishing a plan for the whole site in the next few months.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (i) it be agreed, in principle to begin discussions with DCDT and/or Desborough Town Council regarding the disposal of the factory building on a long term lease at a nominal rent subject to provision of a business plan which incorporates proposals to convert and manage the building and independently raise the necessary funds to do so; and
- (ii) the Council continue to develop a proposal to redevelop the rest of the site for specialist housing provision and undertaking the necessary

negotiations with partners, as well as the necessary consultation with local stakeholders, so that the Council would be in a position to sign off the proposal should the necessary government funding support be forthcoming.

**17.EX.07     NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION REPORT ON THE FUTURE OF THE OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE CORRIDOR: JOINT RESPONSE**

A report was submitted which outlined the conclusions of the National Infrastructure Commission's (NIC) recent report and which shared with members the joint response that has since been submitted by all the councils and LEPs in the area of the "arc" , following the agreement, more locally, of such an approach by the North Northamptonshire Joint Delivery Committee at its meeting in April 2017.

Councillor Anne Lee addressed the Executive on the subject of rail and road links. In response to a question, it was noted that east-west rail links had been worked on since the mid 1990s and would now become a priority for government investment.

It was stressed during the ensuing debate that submission of the joint response would not be binding on the Council, but would ensure we could continue to participate in and influence discussions on delivery of infrastructure and associated development, for the benefit of local people and businesses.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (i) the update provided in this report be received; and
- (ii) the joint response attached as Appendix 2 to the report be noted.

**17.EX.08     TOWN CENTRE DELIVERY PLAN – UPDATE**

A report was submitted which updated members on the progress of the Town Centre Delivery Plan and engagement with the community.

Councillor Mick Scrimshaw addressed the Executive and welcomed the report, stressing that he hoped the consultation

would ensure better dialogue with local businesses and retailers for the benefit of the town centre.

It was noted that the consultation event would be held on 13<sup>th</sup> September, but there would also be an opportunity for people to attend twilight sessions,

**RESOLVED** that the progress on the Town Centre Delivery Plan be noted.

*(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and ended at 7.05 pm)*

Signed .....

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